Activist Profile
Sue McIntosh
Sue grew up outside of Golden, Colorado, when Golden was a small rural town (except for the Cocoa Blonde). She had horses, goats, chickens, and ducks for companions and raised a Black Angus calf. Sue later took a degree in law and received law degrees at the University of Denver and practiced law with a Denver firm for three years, representing mining companies and other industrial interests. This experience, she says, is what turned her into an environmentalist.

She moved to rural Virginia to enter a Ph.D. program in American History at American University in Washington, D.C. Living with six sheep rescued from the Animal Shelter, three goats, a very old horse, and seven dogs. She got involved in her community by her job as Counsel for the Mineral Policy Center, which took her to mine sites in Missouri, Florida, Montana. It wasn’t until Sue moved to New Mexico and a Sierra Club Executive Committee meeting centering on mining law reform.

By the end of 1991, Sue was in the middle of the "mining mess" and is still in it. She became the Chapter’s Mining Issues Chair as well as the Santa Fe Group Representative to the Executive Committee. She played the leading role in developing a program which became the New Mexico Mining Act, finding sponsors for the bill, negotiating with the mining industry on provisions of the bill, and getting the bill passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor. Her role continues in the development and implementation of regulations for the bill.

According to Chapter Chair Gwen Wardwell, “We hope Sue would not have the New Mexico Mining Act which is, according to the New York Times, the best in the United States.”

Meanwhile, as Sue now only has six dogs for animal company, she has taken up the cause of wildlife and is working on expanding the wildlife and habitat protection services of the Game and Fish Department.

Membership

- YES, I want to help safeguard our nation’s precious natural heritage. My check is enclosed.

New Member Name
Address
City
State ZIP
Phone (Optional)
MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES
REGULAR $35 CSF $50
SUPPORTING $75 LTE $100
Donor $100 SOR $250
DONOR NAME
DONOR ADDRESS
Annual dues include subscription to Sierra (2 issues) and chapter publication (1). Donors are not tax-deductible.

Sierra Club
P.O. Box 2298, Boulder, Colorado 80306-2298

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Dear Editor:  
WELL, O.K., it had to happen, I guess.  
There is, of course, a great deal to be said about the text of "Rolling Stone". This is true, and I think it is a good thing that we have to discuss it. However, I would like to point out that the text of "Rolling Stone" is not the only issue at stake here. The issue of how we should respond to issues such as the environment, poverty, and inequality is also important. 

In terms of the environment, we have to ask: What are the real issues at stake here? The issue of climate change is certainly one of them, and it is a very real and pressing issue. However, we also have to ask: What are the solutions to this problem? Are there any realistic solutions available to us? If there are, then we have to ask: How can we ensure that these solutions are implemented? If there are not, then we have to ask: Are there any alternative solutions available to us? If there are, then we have to ask: What are the costs and benefits of these alternative solutions? 

In terms of poverty, we have to ask: What are the real issues at stake here? The issue of economic inequality is certainly one of them, and it is a very real and pressing issue. However, we also have to ask: What are the solutions to this problem? Are there any realistic solutions available to us? If there are, then we have to ask: How can we ensure that these solutions are implemented? If there are not, then we have to ask: Are there any alternative solutions available to us? If there are, then we have to ask: What are the costs and benefits of these alternative solutions? 

In terms of inequality, we have to ask: What are the real issues at stake here? The issue of social inequality is certainly one of them, and it is a very real and pressing issue. However, we also have to ask: What are the solutions to this problem? Are there any realistic solutions available to us? If there are, then we have to ask: How can we ensure that these solutions are implemented? If there are not, then we have to ask: Are there any alternative solutions available to us? If there are, then we have to ask: What are the costs and benefits of these alternative solutions? 

The issue of poverty, the issue of inequality, and the issue of the environment are all very real and pressing issues. However, we also have to ask: What are the solutions to these problems? Are there any realistic solutions available to us? If there are, then we have to ask: How can we ensure that these solutions are implemented? If there are not, then we have to ask: Are there any alternative solutions available to us? If there are, then we have to ask: What are the costs and benefits of these alternative solutions? 

We need to be realistic about the issues at stake here. We need to be realistic about the solutions to these problems. We need to be realistic about the costs and benefits of these solutions. We need to be realistic about the future. We need to be realistic about the world we live in. We need to be realistic about the world we want to live in.
Rio Grande Chapter Endorses State Legislative Candidates

Darla Whitney-Wechs (D-Asilomar [above]) fought to define the “park-barrel” Animas-LaPlata water project in favor of more realistic water projects.

Thomas Atwood (D-Shiprock [below]) has consistently voted in favor of environmental issues on the House floor.

Robert David Pederson (D-Cañon City [below]) fought tenaciously against takings legislation in the Judiciary Committee. He is also against expansion of missile sites at Ft. Wingate.

Rick Miera (D-Albuquerque [above]) has consistently voted for environmental issues on the House floor and has been a strong advocate of Trail System legislation.

Ray Sánchez (D-Bernalillo Co. [below]) as House Speaker has assured floor consideration and background support for key environmental issues.

Cisco McRae (D-Albuquerque [below]), endorsed by the Sierra Club in the Mayoral Primary, has been a consistent and outspoken champion on many environmental issues.

Danice Picraux (D-Albuquerque [above]), named as the Sierra Club’s “Freshman of the Year” in 1992, is the most effective supporter of recycling legislation.

Ramón Huerta (D-Albuquerque [above]) is a fighter on environmental justice issues. Nick Salazar (D-San Juan Pueblo [below]) has been a consistent friend as vice chairman of the Energy Committee and in his seat on Appropriations.

Debbie Rodella (D-San Juan Pueblo [above]) was chief co-sponsor, with Shirley Baca, of the beverage recycling bill.

Robert Perla (D-Corrales [below]) has stuck his neck out on many occasions to support measures for recycling and transportation alternatives and against takings.

Max Coil (D-Santa Fe [above]), chair of the Appropriations Committee, is arguably the environment’s most effective advocate in the Roundhouse.

Luciano “Lucky” Varela (D-Santa Fe [below]), as chair of the Appropriations subcommittee overseeing environmental spend-

in. has earned support for funding in times of give and take on that all-important committee.

Gary King (D-Merianny [below]) fought for three years to gain passage of the Sierra Club’s top priority, mining reform. Energy reform, recycling, and planning are among the other many interests he pursues legis-

James Roger Madalena (D-Jemez Pueblo [above]), as chair of the Energy Committee, is scrupulously fair, but votes decisively with environmentalists. A champion of renewable energy.

Jose Abeyta (D-Wagon Mound [below]) is a solid supporter on the Energy Committee. From a rural district, he has courageously fought ADC funding.

Lynda Morgan (D-Crownpoint [below]) has exercised good judgment in her support of environmental issues, especially on issues before the Energy Committee.
Chapter Endorses Ray Powell for Land Commissioner

As Commissioner of Public Lands, Ray Powell has kept in place a moratorium on leasing state land for hard rock mining until mining reform laws are in place. He has also continued the ban on Animal Damage Control (ADC) on State lands until ADC is reformed.

Powell has initiated the first inventory of threatened plant species on state land. He has pledged to establish an environmental services division to stop ecological disasters before they occur. And he is planning state land near New Mexico cities to become models of development.

In addition, he has worked with the oil and gas industry to prevent both land and bird deaths from oil processing. (See "Open Letter" on page 52.)

The Sierra Club Enthusiastically Supports Tom Udall for Re-election as Attorney General

The Rio Grande Chapter enthusiastically endorses the re-election of Tom Udall as New Mexico's Attorney General.

Mr. Udall’s major field of interest and focus while serving as New Mexico’s Attorney General has been the environment. His most recent efforts have been directed towards stopping construction of the OLE power line through the Jemez Mountains, where he has proposed strong alternatives that will meet the electrical service needs at similar cost without the significant degradation of environmental and Native American religious values that would result if the FNM is approved.

Several years ago Tom began litigation against the US Department of Energy which successfully stopped the trucks carrying nuclear waste from going through New Mexico until such time as the Waste Isolation Pilot Project facility meets all regulatory requirements. It was a case that he argued himself on behalf of the people of New Mexico.

Tom was instrumental in the establishment of the Enforcement Division within the Department of Environment and has aggressively pursued Richard Cook to assure that Richard Cook complies with New Mexico’s environmental regulations. After giving strong support in the effort to pass New Mexico’s Mining Act, he has used his influence to encourage the Attorney General of other states to support reform of the 1872 Federal Mining Act. And he has been a moving force behind the adoption of Clean Water Act regulations.

In the summer of 1995, Tom will become President of the National Association of Attorneys General. It is the tradition of this association to focus on a theme selected by the then president during the year of his term. Tom’s focus will be the environment.

We believe that Tom Udall represents a clear, strong voice for the environment both nationally and locally. We urge his re-election in November.

Incumbent Rep. Ron Coleman Is Endorsed for Re-election

Ron Coleman, the incumbent congressman from the 16th District of Texas, has been endorsed in his bid for re-election. "Clean air and clean water are the greatest challenges facing El Paso today. Addressing the unique environmental hazards along the U.S.-Mexico border is my highest environmental priority," he says. This endorsement speaks to the environmental issue of greatest concern.

The Sierra Club has endorsed Congressman Coleman in several sessions since he first ran for Congress in 1982. He has demonstrated a consistent commitment to the environment since his days as a Texas state legislator when he authored and introduced the legislation to create the Franklin Mountains State Park.

In response to another question he said, "I look forward to the opportunity to work with Rep. Richardson next year in passing a good BLM Wilderness bill for New Mexico. Congressman Coleman has supported many wilderness bills and most recently voted with the majority to pass the California Desert Protection Act.

Ron Coleman has a better than 70% positive environmental voting record for the current session of Congress which began in January 1993 and he has co-sponsored key environmental bills. He has maintained this environmental good voting record throughout his Congressional career.

We ask that all Sierra Club members and other environmentalists who live in the 16th District of Texas cast your vote for the environment and for Ron Coleman in November. If you would like to help to win the re-election campaign, please call Tom Brasfield at 584-8739.

U.S. Representative Bill Richardson, Dist. 3, has one of the highest ratings for advocating environmental legislation in the U.S. Congress.

He has fought for granting reform, mining reforms, and for many other issues of concern to the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club.

His recent appointment as Majority Whip has greatly enhanced his ability to ensure passage of effective environmental legislation.

The Rio Grande Chapter cannot advocate too strongly for Rep. Richardson’s re-election to the House. He is simply the best friend we have in Congress.

We urge you to vote for him and to actively work for his re-election. If you are interested in working for Rep. Richardson’s campaign, call his Santa Fe office at 988-7230.

Letters

(co)nt from page 2)

Nec is it productive to write off the only columnist of New Mexico who seem capable of generating any broad-based action on a grassroots level. I am proud that Carson County is part of New Mexico. Those people (the real people, not the corporate "Wise Use" managers) are independent, stubborn, with whom many of us disagree regarding the use of natural resources.

There is a disagreement within the Sierra Club as well as the rest of the environmental community regarding the worth of rural New Mexico as it exists today and may exist tomorrow. Some of us think it is priceless—because we have seen the alternatives. Others believe it will go, as has been said, the way of the corner grocery store.

Well, these people in the country are fighting to stay home. They have a right to stay on the land. They must like it. I don’t blame them, I like it, too. I’d fight anyone who made me leave just as soon prefer that I go away. So, it looks like many of us are fighting about what is best for the land where we all care very much. This is the case, why are we not working with rural people, instead of against them? Why do we prefer political candidates who do not speak to these people instead of candidates who can speak to us and to them?

Yes, yes, I have been told by the likes of Dave Roman (a $10,000 think is very early) and several other highly regarded enviro in the West that we have tried to work with the Aggies, but without success. There is little need to try any more cooperation.

 CreateMap

P.O. Box 23256
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Further endorsements may be made. If so, they will be reported in the November-December issue of the Sierra Club.

Representative Bill Richardson: Our Best Friend in Congress

Welcome, New Members

Please welcome the following new members who have joined us during January through May of this year:

Leah Nola, Santa Fe
Kirk Smith, Santa Fe
Jacqueline Stone, Santa Fe
Peter Thompson, Santa Fe
Sharon Littv, Santa Fe
Brent Youngblood, Las Alamos
Mr. Richard Blevins, Las Cruces
Mrs. Holly Corral, Las Cruces
Christian Squires, Las Cruces
Edward Shubert, Las Alamos
Dr. Malcolm Ketteler, Ojo Caliente
Krishen Westerfield, Ranchos De Taos
Irla Garland, Tijeras
Mr. Charles Leonard, Tijeras
Sierra Vista, Taos
Wanda Greenfield, Taos
Audra Lanthier, Taos
Mr. Barbara Denmark, Snowbowl
Bob Jones, Snowbowl
Paul Marshall, Taos and Cappaesthetic
Vernon Peeples, Hood, El Paso
Mr. Ray Winston
Mr. and Mrs. McCray, Las Cruces
Jim Andrews, Las Cruces
Jim and Les McClay, Las Cruces
Richard and Joyce Hunter, Las Cruces
Mr. and Mrs. Murrell, Silver City
Mr. Dar Davis, Roswell
Audrey Marks, Roswell
Stew Weir, Corrales
Larry Ford, Hobbs
Floyd Robbins, Santa Fe
Rhonda Rosenau, Las Cruces
Lara Hogendoorn, Roswell
Roy Murrell, APO 96300

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1994 THE RIO GRANDE SIERRAN

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1994 THE RIO GRANDE SIERRAN
Sierra Club Plans a Velvet Revolution

by Susan Gorman

It’s time for revolutionary changes to create a more vital Sierra Club. Through its 100 year history, the Sierra Club has continuously evolved and grown while retaining its democratic character. But any organization must be prepared to change to meet new challenges and the Club is no exception.

In the last issue of the Sierra, we published a restructuring resolution and the request from Bobbie Cox, President of the Club’s Board of Directors, for members to provide ideas for a new organizational structure. The Restructuring Task Force initiated PROJECT RENEWAL, and received input from hundreds of members. Using these members’ ideas, the Task Force prepared a Draft Proposal and has asked for more member input before the Annual Meeting, September 23-25, when the Board will consider revisions and modifications before adopting the final plan.

The proposal will change the ways we work together at all levels of the Club.

The Council of Leaders, which is composed of a delegate from each Chapter (including me as the Rio Grande Chapter’s delegate), will meet with the Board of Directors once a year to address critical concerns of Chapters and Groups and to advise the Board on all aspects of Club activity.

The Board and the Council have been existing Club entities and have well-developed methods for addressing issues and solving problems. The challenge will be to discover the right means for this combined Board and Council to truly communicate at the annual meeting and in between to promote better understanding of the challenges we all face.

The newly constituted Conservation Committee will be responsible for the coordination and strategic planning of the Club’s conservation programs. Strategy Teams will be formed for the major conservation areas: Lands/water (Preserving the Wild Planets); Energy: Pollution; Environmentally sustainable economy; Population; and International.

These Strategy Teams will explore ways to enhance opportunities for volunteers and to develop creative ways to involve more activists (that’s US). Lots of emphasis is placed on using electronic communication such as E mail, fax, and phone conferencing to supplement direct mail “Action Alerts.” At the same time, we have not lost sight of the importance of face to face meetings.

The best part of the proposal is my view is that the functions of the Regional Conservation Committees (RCC’s) and the Bioregion Task Forces will be combined. This will not be easily done and there will be some initial confusion, I suspect. But in the long run, this is the right path to take.

Another important part of the proposal is that a portion of the time and funding of the Regional Staff will be allocated to regional conservation work and to reorganization projects and that RCC’s which will set the priorities with input from the Chapters and Groups.

Okay, so what does this really mean for all of us way down the Grassroots? We get more! More staffing, more issue and membership organizing, and more training for volunteer management.

Through participation in the issue/activist networks, we get more information and more inclusion in national conservation actions.

This summary does not do justice to the full extent of the restructuring. Anyone who wants to know more must read a copy of the Draft Proposal as soon as you as best is possible. By then you may be able to bring about change. The best place of course is to begin at home. City of Albuquerque water rates have increased twice in the last four years, but still remain bargain basement low. This can’t be incentive to change your home water use practices now. But it is a strategy the City is considering, so perhaps the challenge could be to have in place your low water consumption lifestyle when that time comes.

If you have an interest in designing and planting (converting your yard) to low water use landscaping or just want to see a colorful slideshow, the September program is meant for you. The practice is called xeriscaping (yes, another word, “xeris”, borrowed from the Greek) and the well-respected practitioner is Judith Phillips. Judith has written two books (the second about to be published) on the subject and has a wealth of knowledge and a water-saving conviction to share.

Start landscaping now, you say! No, not yet. Come to the meeting, take in the program, plant your landscape over the winter, start scratching in early spring and be ready to plant by the summer. The September meeting will be on the third Monday, the 19th, beginning at 7:30 PM. We meet in room 2402 of the UNM Law School, NW corner of Stanford and Constitution NE. Please bring a cup and share in the refreshments provided by the Albuquerque Group.

OCTOBER MEETING

There will be a program in October, the details of which were not quite worked out by press time. We will meet at an usual on the third Monday evening of the month, the 17th, beginning at 7:30 PM, also in the same place afforded to us over the years, the UNM Law School, room 2402.

STATE FAIR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteers are needed to collect donations for parking at the Sierra Club office during the NM State Fair. This is one of Albuquerque Group’s best local fundraising events. Volunteers are needed for three-hour shifts between 9 am and 9 pm, from September 9 through the 25th. Call David Morrison at 344-8693.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Central New Mexico Audubon Society is sponsoring a hawkwatching trip Saturday, September 24 in the Manzano. For further information call Jeff Myers, 508-8457.

The New Mexico Museum of Natural History will be showing a new film at the D. Lawrence Theater in September, “Yellowstone.” Movies begin on the hour between 10 am and 5 pm every day. The museum is open.

September 8 and 9: "Reduce Your Use - Save our Water," the forum on the Mayor’s Water Conservation Program. If you can, go to Jack Pinney for details.

CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, meetings take place at the Club office at 235 San Pedro NE.

Sept 6: Activities & Special Planning Meeting, 7PM.
Sept 7: Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM.
Sept 12: Executive Committee Meeting, 7PM.
Sept 19: Sierra Club General Meeting, UNM Law School, Rm 2402, 7:30 PM.
Sept 26: Conservation Working Session, 7:00 PM.
Oct 4: Activities & Special Planning Meeting.
Oct 5: Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM.
Oct 12: Executive Committee Meeting, 7PM.
Oct 17: Sierra Club General Meeting, UNM Law School, Rm 2402, 7:30 PM.
Oct 24: Conservation Working Session, 7:00 PM.
Abbreviations: WSA - Wilderness Study Area
SC - Sierra Club
NRA - National Recreation Area

Outings may be cancelled or changed due to weather or other reasons, please call leader before outings.

Some time

Summer Solstice

Miles 3: 125 Car 100

Picnic Rug in the Backyard

Western Sierra Club Group

An outing for birding in the western Sierra Nevada.

Leader: David McMorris 344-8693

Sat Sep 24 Leisure - Moderate

Miles: 5 Car: 110

Fourth of July Canyon Spectacular

Maranatha Bicycles

As autumn takes its grip on the maples, oaks, and aspen turning their multiple shades of red and yellow, we offer you the best of the canyon was named “Fourth of July” plan to drive to the campground and hike to the crest.

Meet at the Sierra Club office, 207 San Pedro, at 9:00 AM. Bring lunch.

Leader: Bob Conneth 255-6057

Sat Sep 24 Beginner's Backpacking

Training Session

Five instructors will cover food, cooking, tent, sleeping bag, packs, boots, clothing, sanitation, and low impact camping. Meet at REI classroom at 1:00 PM.

Crag Dill 224-9795

Sat Sep 10-2 Moderate

Miles: 4-6 Car: 150

Beginner's Backpacking

Pine Wilderness

This is the follow up from last weekend's backpacking session, we will have more advanced lessons, challenging but easy, bring a fishing pole or watch the angler's change. Open to all trail backpackers. Call for details.

Leader: Craig Dill 224-9795

Sat Sep 10-2 Moderate

Miles: 4-6 Car: 300

Valle Vidal X/C Trail Scout

Overnight scout for the Valle Vidal near Coloma and to scout out potential X/C ski trails. Marvelous mountain scenery. Expect chilly overnight temperatures. Contact 839-4301.

Leader: John Turnbull 466-9329

Sat Sep 1 Leisure

Miles: 4-5 Car: 180

San Pedro Parks Wilderness Ride

REMINDERS:

We come in from the north near Coyote above. We walk through aspen and fir into an area with wildflowers (late) meadow and a fair amount of beaver dams. The aspen leaves should have fallen, so bring a hat or headband. Call for meeting.

Leader: John Wright 247-4355

Oct 2 Sun Leisure

Miles: 27 Car: 3

Sara Peak Hike, Petaluma NM

The kid's section of the Outing's program is another month to trips museums, zoos, building bird feeders, cooking etc.

Bicycles are placed on the single parent situation. This trip will look at pez for a shot for a skateboard, bring a lunch. Meet at 9:00 AM. This is a repeat of a trip that was rained out last spring. Please RSVP three days prior.

Leader: Warren Smith 891-4709

Sun Oct 8-9 Moderate

Miles: 84 Car: 470

Mt. Umuncompahre and Mt. Wetterhorn, Colorado 14er

Take these Days of Columbus Day weekend to do some peak bagging.

Leader: Stefan Verchinski 888-1370

Oct 8 Sun Moderate - Exploratory Miles: 6+ Car: 500

Ab-She-Sie-Pah Wildfire Hike

Everyone has not heard of Ab-She-Sie-Pah, sit down, enjoy, stay for lunch, the hike is in badlands. The greatest hiking is in badlands that no one knows about. Add the concern of trying to protect this Wilderness Study Area from the coal companies and you have a very busy day. This blue is the Blue Ridge and is a stone's throw from town, etc. Expect to leave at an early 6:00AM, and stay late. Bring lunch.

Leader: David McMorris 344-8693

Oct 9 Sun Leisure

Miles: 3 Car: 100

Piedras Marcadas Hike

Petaluma NM

Between 100-1540 AD, more than 40 pueblos were built along the Rio Grande between Bernalillo and Belen. The escarpment's petroglyphs coincides with the construction of these pueblos and a large population increase. Thousands of petroglyphs. Bring cameras, binoculars and sturdy shoes.

Leader: Bob Conneth 255-6057

Sun Oct 15-16 Moderate

Miles: 24 Car: 200

Ranierina Mountain Bike Ride, Rio Rito Pueblo

Drive to Rio Ruoero Region on the north slope of Mt. Taylor, and head into the Ignacio Wilderness study area. Camp Sat night, Home meet dinner! Call for details.

Leader: Val 265-5945.

Oct 15 Sat Moderate

Miles: 4-6 Car: 110

Ojito ACEC Hike

Ojito WSA lies within the confines of the Ojito Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Part of the ACEC that lies outside of the WSA is now being proposed for mining by Caceres for use in their plant in Bernalillo. Utility lines have been dug across the area in the past and mining claims are common. We will take the Rio Salado, head to the traverline hot pots, wander a guyus narrow and cross over into some traverline narrow and sink holes. Bring lunch.

Leader: David McMorris 344-8693

Oct 22 Sun Leisure

Miles: 3 Car: 22

Boca Negra Canyon Bike Hike

Petaluma NM

There are petroglyphs in this area of the morning star, great creek, purrata, Mammoth warriors masks, and hundreds of anthropomorphs. Bring sturdy shoes, binoculars, and camera, RSVP.

Leader: Bob Conneth 255-7679

Oct 22 Sun Moderate

Miles: 4-5 Car: 40

Aquatic Sarca Trail Hike, Sandia Wilderness

This trail takes off from Tunnel Springs and goes around the west side to the mine and then continues on up to a spring. We go up over a ridge to intersect the Crest trail and back to Tunnel Spring. If people are anxious, we will take a trip the Chama Wall. Meet behind Winchell's at San Mateo and 7th. For information call David 344-8693.

Leader: Susan Lauren

Oct 23 Sun Moderate - Strenuous

Miles: 5 Car: 100

Los Lunas Ranch

Dana will again take us out so an interesting area west of Los Lunas. We will be looking for palm tree fossils, yucca, ocotillo, asters, and more. Along the way we will scramble over some dry waterfalls. Four wheel drive vehicles would be helpful. Bring lunch.

David Morrison 344-8693

Oct 29 Strenuous

Miles: 6-7 Car: 160

Sierra Ladrones WSA Hike

Screes slopes and thick brush make this a challenging hill climb from upper heights down to the aspen of Sierra Moutain. Views of 360 degrees await the successful climber. If lucky we will glimpse the desert big horn sheep. Bring lunch water, and don't forget your jacket. Meet at 8:00 at Physics and Astronomy parking lot, corner of Yale and Lomas.

Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Oct 30 Sun Leisure

Miles: 3 Car: 3

Rio Grande Bosque Bike

We will ride the Bosque near Corrales near the diversion dam. Three miles and three hours. Meet at 9:00 AM at Burrito Co, the corner of Corrales and Alameda.

Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Late Oct, Early Nov

X/C Ski Swaps

See story on page 23.

Nov 5 Moderate

Miles: 3-4 Car: 160

El Malpais National Monument, Westside Ice Caves Hike

The management plan for the El Malpais was successfully completed by environmentalists.

This appeal will allow reconsideration of the Chain of Craters as Wilderness, bureau management, and other factors. We will hike into the Cave and look at Four Windows ice caves. Bring lunch. Call for meeting location and time.

Leader: Tom Lick 256-7217

Thurs Sun Nov 22-27

Thanksgiving Downhill Ski Race

If you are new to the area and/or have no family in town, plan on joining the Sierra Club for a four day Thanksgiving weekend. Look for more information in the November Sierraan. Contact Stan 839-4301 or Val 265-5945.

THE RIO GRANDE SIERRAN

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1994

THE RIO GRANDE SIERRAN

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1994
AUGUST MEETING
Our August speaker will be Mike Cormier of the El Paso Solar Energy Association. Mike will speak on “Advantages of Living in a Sunny Climate.” He will tell us about how much solar energy. If you schmooze up to Mother Nature, she’ll help you beat and cool your home without a big utility bill. Join us for this illuminating presentation.

The program will start at 7:30 p.m. on Wed 28 Aug at St. Paul’s Methodist Church. For more information, call Ted Murgit, 832-3011.

SEPTEMBER MEETING
Our September speaker will be Tim Murphy of the B.L.M. Tim will offer an update on the proposed field site at Wima Min (the Compadras Mt, an area of critical environmental concern because of their many historic prehistoric sites). Join us soon! The program will start at 7:30 p.m. on Wed 28 Sep at St Paul’s Methodist Church.

UPCOMING EVENTS
Wed 21 Aug
Gen Mtg 7:30 p.m. 7000 Edgemine
I.C.O. at 6 p.m. Env Ctr
EXCOM mtg 7 p.m. Env Ctr

Sat 24 Aug
Concert
Gen Mtg 7:30 p.m. 7000 Edgemine
I.C.O. at 6:30 p.m. Env Ctr
EXCOM mtg 7 p.m. Env Ctr

Sat 31 Aug
Gen Mtg 8 p.m. 7000 Edgemine
I.C.O. at 6 p.m. Env Ctr
EXCOM mtg 7 p.m. Env Ctr

LORAX flier deadline 526-2522

Mon 5 Sep
Gen Mtg 7:30 p.m. 7000 Edgemine
I.C.O. at 6 p.m. Env Ctr
EXCOM mtg 7 p.m. Env Ctr

Mon 12 Sep
Gen Mtg 7:30 p.m. 7000 Edgemine
I.C.O. at 6 p.m. Env Ctr
EXCOM mtg 7 p.m. Env Ctr

Sun 19 Sep
LORAX Sierra deadline 526-2522

Mon 26 Sep
Gen Mtg 7:30 p.m. 7000 Edgemine
I.C.O. at 6 p.m. Env Ctr
EXCOM mtg 7 p.m. Env Ctr

THANKS TO GARDEN SCHWARTZ!
You can now receive the LORAX every month because of the generous sponsorship of Garden Schwartz Sparta! Chris Patman of the westside Garden Schwartz paid for both printing and mailing of last month’s LORAX flier. Thank you, Garden Schwartz Sparta! We will be receiving the LORAX monthly, but in two different forms. The flier will be a colored single-page of folded paper, suitable for posting on your refrigerator door. That will come every other month. On the intervening months you’ll get the BIG GRANDE SIERRA. THE LORAX — as you must know since you’re reading this — is buried in the back. Please don’t simply pitch the SIERRA away. We know that recycled newspaper gray isn’t the sportiest color. But it is informative.

SPREAD THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS: The El Paso Environmental Center operates on the strength of a very few, very dedicated volunteers. Thanks are due Erika Eppiaco, Jane Fowler, Jo Nagel, Betty Patel, and Vic Ward for their consistent help, weekend and week-in. Thanks out to Roberto H.S., the many Hibberts for Humanism, you! Carole Price’s technical writing students at UTEP, and Tom Casey for their work with the Center’s recycling program.

Volunteers Are Needed! At the El Cito Crus, this goes without saying. But we have to say anyway because we need you. Please come and pitch in. Or at least please to put your name on a call list. We need you, we need you, we need you.

Franklin Mountains Call for Help: While we’re listing swear-equity meetings, consider joining the Carolines. She is the superintendent of Franklin Mtn State Park, office 438-500 (between Raynolds & Huckleberry). Please call her at 566-6441 to hear of dynamo plans for the park’s future. Become a part of it now.

First Aid Training: Eleven Sierra volunteers attended classes for C.P.R. and First Aid at the AM TA9 May for the purpose of earning certification in these valuable skills. Despite fatigue from full workdays, the Sierrans perked up for the four-hour evening sessions. Excellent instruction helped. At the Basic Life Support class 532-0120, Barbara Zumba will teach the First Aid in two sessions. At the El Paso R.M.S. HQ 545-2285, Eric Holen taught one session of C.P.R.

Laurence Gibson earned certification in C.P.R. Allison Orne and Mary Lou Parker earned certification in First Aid. Emily Burris attended both sessions.

The free C.P.R. classes are offered on one Thursday night per month. For this June session will be the 7th, 5:15-8:15 p.m., and we ask you to reserve yourself a spot. First Aid classes need reserve booking, since they require a minimum of eight students. Phone Barbara to express interest, and she can gather a list to post together some classes.

One happy result of this drive is our newest outreach leader, Patricia Wood. The first Sierra Club outing she’s led is the Ram Trail Dayhike on Sat 8 June.

Did Ya Get ‘em from the Boot? I.C.O. needs good used hiking boots of various sizes. Please let us know if you have kicky clohenders of your feet which feel like twin cinderblocks. Nor do we need uppity raggies and useless boots, nor boxes with an overwhelming aroma fit to regal grousers. But if you have used children’s, men’s, or women’s lightweight hiking boots which are still decent usable shape, we’re to love to receive your donation. Call the Environmental Center, or Michael Bromka, or bring ‘em on by. Give us the boot, please.

Get Those Outs Here! Please take your used magazines somewhere else. The Env Ctr can’t turn them around for cash. All we do is search for new homes for them, which wastes valuable volunteer time. It’d be best for you to bring used magazines directly to someone who wants them. On the western, used magazines are welcomed by The Bookmark 933-2454, run by the Friends of the Westside Library. They’re located at 7500 N. Mesa in the Promenade Plaza across from Pep Boys and Walmart, just two doors west of Cici’s Pizza. Their hours are Thu & Sat 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Fri 4-8 p.m.

Another quick place to dump used magazines is any local school that accepts them. Phone ahead to ask, or drop them in during normal school hours. Or ask any teachers you know if they’ll take ‘em in for you.

But do please NOT bring used magazines to the Environmental Center, thanks.

But Bring Us Your Canvas, aluminum and “sin”, white office paper, computer printer paper, corrugated cardboard, plastic, soft drink bottles, pickle relish, trash bags and styrofoam egg cartons & packing noodles. The Center is open Wed-Sat, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

UPCOMING OUTINGS
Sat 3-5 Sept: Labor Day Loop Backpack. Gila Wilderness, strenu- ous limit 12, call Laurence Gibson 594-3742. We’ll do a 22 mile loop in three days from Little Dry Creek trailhead to Apache Cabin, down the Golden Link Trail to Spruce Creek and out via old Trail 230. Old mines and a new ice June this will interest.

Sat 17 Sept: Baylor Pass Traverse Dayhike. Organ Mts, strenuous, limit 12, call Alice Anderson 505-529-4179. From St. Augustine Pass, we’ll follow the north ridge of Baylor Peak thence to Baylor Canyon Trail. Expect loose rock, some exposure, trash, radio-masts, and spectacular views along this rare outing.

Sun 18 Sept: Bear-Topas Loop Dayhike, Guadalupe Mts, strenu- ous 2000’t gain, limit 20, call Michael Bromka 532-2652. From the Sierra de las Fogatas, start gently along Pejito Trail before climbing that Bear of a Canyon, steeply switchbacking to Point Top. Hunter Peak offers one of the great Texas views. Trail traverses back down to finish this ten-mile classic.

Fri 23-25 Sept: Parents/Offering Service Backpack in the Guds, strenuous limit 20, call Michael Bromka 532-2652. Fri evening we’ll drive to Guds, camp free at a group site. Saturday evening early, we’ll eat a quick dinner, and then stop on our backpacks for a cool morning ascent to the escarpment. We won’t have to carry water except for the hike. Reaching the eastcreek, we’ll use tools and timbers provided by the Park Service to build permanent tepees. A halflife of weekend should complete the project. Sunday should complete the project. We’ll hike out and drive home.

UPCOMING EVENTS
Sat 5-7 Oct: Fall Foliage Backups in the Guds, strenuous 12 mile 2000 g in first day but easy second day, call Michael Bromka 532- 2652. We’ll shuttle the cars to McKirtrick Canyon, then drive back to begin pine Springs. We’ll hike up Tejas Trail to Pine Top, then across the escarpment to the wooded McKirtrick Ridge camp. Sunday will regale us with leafy color as we descend into lush McKirtrick Canyon.

Sun 8 Oct: Rim Trail Dayhike, Cloudcroft, easy 5 miles, call Patricia Wood 542-0235. Join us for the quick two-hour drive to our trailhead near Cloudcroft Center. From a ridge trail high above the basin, we’ll view the Tulareosa valley, White Sands, and Sierra Blanca to the north. We’ll continue down the path to a lusty stand of evergreen trees, before the calves tiring in red and gold. In this brilliant glide we’ll relax and eat lunch. Returning by the same trail, we may opt to stop for ice cream or a snack in one of Cloudcroft’s trendy new shops.

Sat 8-9 Oct: San Mateo Peak Backpack, Apache Kid Wilderness, moderate plus limit 18, call Josh Rodrigues 833-9555, we’ll be up near our winter camp on the mesa south of Cloudcroft Center. Check next LORAX for details.

OUTINGS REPORTS
Trans-Gila Backpack, 18-26 June: We began on a classic route from Sundown Point to Four- mile Staircase Snow to White Park Creek. While El Paso baked in record-setting heat, our weather ranged from halos to thunderstorms. We had the trails pretty much to ourselves. We visited with Gnome and Quasimodo at Hummingbird, and learned the ways of the spotted owl from a survey crew at the Flats. We swam in sparkling pools, and sighted many elk, some deer, bears, and even one bear, and the very busy bobcat. The peak trail was an exciting one, and we reached the summit of each of our peaks with no problems at all. The trip was ended as it began with a Willow Creek campfire featuring fresh trout and fancy trout. Our group included Dale Harris, Rafael Galvez, Chris Gillison, with guest John Wright, and leader Laurence Gibson.

THE BIG GRANDE SIERRA
EL PASO
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1994

THE BIG GRANDE SIERRA
EL PASO
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1994
Weminuche Backpack, 6-13 July: The Continental Divide Trail stretches eighty miles through Colorado’s Weminuche Wilderness. Our goal was to backpack the eastern-most forty miles from Wolf Creek Pass to Squaw Pass. Could we make it in six days? Would we find water along the way? Above the timberline could we avoid lightning? These questions nagged Bill & Shirley Phillips, Betty Fitbike, Susan Pratt, Carol Morrisset, Rafaela Schaller, Carolina Greenfield, and Lawrence Gibson as we shouldered packs at Lobo Overlook. For the first three days we took it easy, adjusting to the average altitude of 11,500 ft. We gained pushed ahead through two very strenuous days, ten miles over ten hours each day. These were an endurance “gut check” for us, but offered rewards. We relished real blueberries, gorgeous wildflowers, a grizzly teesite beside aushing spring (no pumping!), and off-the-cuff-of-world beauty. One day at dusk by “Deepadero Saddle,” we met five lost hikers on thirsty and bleeding mounts. They asked directions but refused a map: “Wouldn’t know how to read it.” We pressed on to the gem-like Choroketh Lake. There, we shared our camp with an astonish crowd of five buck blankets, dozed out for rocking with pre-1940-style style: flint & steel, canvas & leather, mulek & moccasins, 100+ lb packs. Called themselves “Les Misérables,” so we too cried! Our last two-eight miles down to Squaw Pass, then to the trailhead felt relatively easy. On our home stretch, clouds rolled in to engulf us with a thick blanket. Then, minds. Happy campers, we reached our vehicles safely: stronger, lighter, and wiser now, having learned answers to questions which no longer nagged.

Tour de La Luz Bike Ride, 9 July: The Sierra and El Pato Bicycle Clubs teamed up for 32 miles of fast downhill mountain biking from Cloudcroft to La Luz, NM. The first 3.5 miles offered a steep paved climb to Silver, Saddle, & Apache campgrounds, then a sharp descent to Forest Rd 162. From there we zipped downhill on dirt through scenery evolving from alpine forest to arid desert. Over the paved portion of the ride we were accompanied by Carlos Heredia & family. Crossing a cattleguard just before our Wolford turnaround, young Carlos Jr offered an orange on skaling a hike from his S-speed. He was in luck: driving the SAG wagon (service and gear), Mary Lou Parker pulled over to confer with rider. Ousting leader Richard Robinson of the Sierra Club first-kit to treat a minor road rash on Carlos Jr’s shoulder. Carlos Jr’s shoulder slowly cycled up to treat his son’s damaged dignity.

Guests from the Jurne mountain bike racing scene, Lewis Simon, and Al Velitix delighted in the speedy descent: “really gets your adrenaline pumping.” We might re-club Veliz as Velox (Spanish for “fast”). Despite a slower going, a major brush road rash, and loss of a big tool (snail), AI is ready for the next ride.

The day’s goriest glory goes to 14-yr-old Ian Hanes Jr, who suffered a nasty-looking puncture wound to the forehead & chin plus toes & forearm abrasions after bashing his front wheel on a rock. Richard, Michael Bronka, and others rendered first aid until the SAG wagon arrived. Richard drove Ian to get stitched up in Alamogordo, picking up his father along the way. Ian Jr is now pleased to have a tale riveting his father’s recent warwounds at the stables of a jackal while snorkeling in the Sea of Cortez.

After rides arrived happy without a scratch. John Walloch claimed he hardly got a workout, and his children Rory (8) and Arbur (10) suffered only hard blisters from frequent braking. Other cyclists were Roy McCloud, AI Trabuca, Robert Bell, Tony Balacace- do, Rafaela Rozas, and Burt Cheeko. Riding shots in the SAG wagon was Mary Lou’s nephew, Jimmy Parker (6). For news of future joint Sierra & El Pato Bicycle Club outings, call 584-4455.

Raish Park, Durango, 16 July: Our small but enthusiastic group hit the trail for a fun and vigorous hike in the Gila. The trail was bone dry. Temperature was comfortable, thanks to an incipient thunderhead hovering off to the north. We hiked briskly to the cerral on Raish Park, leisurely of time as we stopped for local exploration. On the return leg, rain threatened but held off. Hikers were Chris & Felix Vitalianese, Jason & Lorraine Poir, Gustavo Pina, Roy McCloud, Jim Munters, and leader Carl G. Harterick.

Earth Letter

You can make a difference now: write a letter, save the earth.

An Endangered Act: Good news: the bald eagle population has surged to be reclassified from endangered to "threatened." Bad news: the act which nurtured the eagle is itself endangered. Opponents of the Endangered Species Act are trying to relax the E.S.A. and encourage development, eagles be damned.

Treehuggers to the Rescue? While environmentalists in Congress are trying to shoo up the E.S.A. as it approaches reauthorization, Seeking to give the E.S.A. teeth, these lawmakers propose a deadline schedule by which critical habitats can be designed and preserved. Take a Stand: Sierra Club supports the pro-environmental H.R. 2043 of Reps. Studds and Dingell; also the S.921 of Sens. Baucus and Chafee.

Here's Why: These bills are good because they:
1. focus on whole ecosystems
2. speed the recovery of endangered species
3. offer financial incentives for private landowners to cooperate
4. encourage the public to participate in recovery of endangered species

Sierra Club also endorses the Clinton admin's efforts to focus on whole ecosystems (which often include a number of threatened spe-

Beau Hiss! Sierra Club opposes the measures of Reps. Taft & Fields and Sens. Shelby & Gordon. They want to relax on development. Here is a glaring loophole they would allow:
No Patty Broom: Say an eagles nest in a tree. Currently, that tree and its neighboring trees are protected. Opponents of the E.S.A. want to allow cutting down the neighboring trees. Then if the eagle leaves its nest temporarily, they cut down that tree as well.

We must protect rare habitats and species before they dwindle to extinction.

Write a Letter, Save the Earth: Re-read this discussion. In your own words, handwriting its essence. Be brief, lucid, and passionate. Send your letter to one or more Congresspeople:
- Senator Phillip Bone
- Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison
- Senator Jeff Bingaman
- Senator Pete Domenici
- Representative Ron Coleman
- Representative Joe Stearn

Washington, D.C. 20510 (envelope 20515 house) [These are more likely to heed your message.]

Glow With Pride: You've done your part!

SANTA FE GROUP NEWS
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1994

PROTECTION OF SOUTHWEST FOREST ECOSYSTEMS

The Forest Protection Council will present a slide show and discussion of southwest forest issues at the September General Meeting. The Forest Conservation Council has based its work in the southwest regional office in Santa Fe and has been working to protect the fragile ecosystems of New Mexico, Arizona and southern Colorado forest lands since 1992. The slide show will document destructive forest practices, at risk forest ecosystems and wildlife, as well as describe and highlight the Council's proactive ecosystem reserve mapping project, which is nearing completion on the Carson andSanta Fe National Forests. For more information, contact Sue McIntosh or John Talbert at 986-8435. Or, just show up and be entertained!

The September meeting is free to all and will be held at the Unitarian Church (on Barcelona between Don Gaspar and Galisteo) Tuesday, September 20, 1994, at 7:30 PM.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1994
MEET THE CANDIDATES

An important exercise to keep our state healthy is for voters to get to know the people who are running for public office. That opportunity will present itself at our October General Meeting to which we have invited the candidates for statewide offices that have been endangered by the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club.

The meeting is free to all and will be held at the Unitarian Church (on Barcelona between Don Gaspar and Galisteo) Tuesday, October 18, 1994, at 7:30 PM.

REGISTER TO VOTE — NOW!! VOTE NOVEMBER 1 VOTE OFTEN!!

>> SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS <<

Co-Chairs — Mark Mortlie* 983-5870 — Norma Callan* 474-0050
— Norma McCallan 471-0005 — Ethnic Editor — Kai Carlson 982-3926
Secretary/Treasurer — Lionel Sorsco* 983-0715 — Phoebe Tree — Martha Anne Freeman 458-0097
— Van Perkins* 983-3801 — Kid's Bike Club — Justine Freeman 989-9176
Conservation — Van Perkins* 983-0715 — Recycling/Office — Carolyn Kekula 982-9570
— Joan McCallan* 982-0050 — Outings — Norbert Sperlich 983-1962
Chapter Representatives — Sue McLintos* 466-4144 — Publicity — Joan McCallan 983-7005
— Chapter McCallan 971-0005 — Social/Membership — Fundraising — Education —

Terms expire 12/94: Hughes/McClellan/Freeman/Perkins
12/95: McCallan/Mortlie/Scorza/Goldman/D瀁ness

Meetings at the Sierra Club Office, 440 Cerrillos: Executive Committee: October 4, November 1st 7 PM
Conservation Committee: September 20, October 25 at 7 PM
SANTA FE GROUP OUTINGS

Sat Sun

3 September
Joe Whelan (984-0746) Moderate Hike to Pedernal Peak (one steep scramble at end), followed by a swim at Abiquiu Lake on trip home. Leave 8:30 AM.

4 September
Norbert Sperlich (984-1962) Moderate Hike to Jemez. Leave 8 AM.

5 September
Carolyn and Arnold Keskiull (982-9570) Easy Hike in the Tesuque Basin (accessed from Aspen Vista Road). Leave 8:30 AM.

6 September
Jeff Jones (466-2388) Strenuous Hike to Spirit Lake and Lake Katherine. Leave 7:30 AM.

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN THIS Hike FROM LAST NEWSLETTER**

Saturday-Sunday, September 10-11

11 John Turnbull (466-0230) Overnight Car Camp to Bisti area to explore the geology of the San Juan Basin and look for fossils and dinosaur bones in the De-Na-Zin Wilderness area. Small pick or hammer useful. Easy to Moderate Hiking. Leave 8:30 AM Sat morning from Wilderness Exchange on Cordova Road. Albuquerque folks can meet group at San Ysidro. No water available in Bisti area — bring sufficient. Call leader for details.

17 Norrie Sanders (984-0386) Easy Hike on Aspen Vista Road. Leave 8:30 AM.

17 September
Steven Merdler (986-4137) Strenuous Hike to Santa Fe Baldy, then to Redondo Peak (Capulin). Considerable elevation gain. Leave 8 AM.

18 Bob McKee (672-3426) Moderate Hike to Nambe Lake. Leave 8 AM.

18 September
Caroline Glick (984-3184) Strenuous Hikes in Pecon Wilderness. Call leader for reservations & info.

20 Lionel Soracco (983-6715) Moderate Hike to Cerro Pelada via Randall David Center. Off-trail up and down ridges. Leave from PERA at 8 AM.

Friday-Saturday-Sunday, September 23-24-25

Norma McCallan (471-0035) 3-day Backpack Mariano Mtns. Live after work Thurs. Base camp on crest and Saturday day hike along the Crest Trail. Leave after work on Thurs. Call for details.

SANTA FE GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NEWS

NEW XCOM MEMBER

Don Goldman has been selected to fill the unexpired term of Vicki Gabin on the Santa Fe Group Execom. Don is a long-time activist here in Santa Fe, and we feel proud that he has consented to join our Group Execom. Welcome, Don.

ELECTION TIME AGAIN

The November-December issue of the newsletter will carry balloting for elections of four new members of the Santa Fe Group Executive Committee. The nominating committee consists of Ken Hughes (474-0590), Sue McIntosh (466-4144) and Kay Carlson (982-3926). If you are interested in serving on the Execom, know anyone else who would be interested, or would just like more information, please call Ken Hughes before September 30.

NOTES FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

WANTED: Volunteers for the following tasks: Tea & Coffee person to set up and be at the refreshment table at each general meeting. Welcome to be at the table with brochures/hiking books/TV-suites/bulletins at each general meeting to welcome members/guests as they arrive.

Membership Chair to be responsible for planning activities to recruit/retain new members.

Social Chair to plan and oversee social events for our membership.

Education Chair to plan and oversee environmental education activities in our community & schools.

We have an impressive number of members, but a discouragingly small number of activists and volunteers. All of these positions are vacant at this time. Each can be as narrowly or broadly interpreted as your time and energies allow. All provide wonderful opportunities for interaction with your fellow Siervas and for doing your part for the environment.

If you are interested in finding out more about these openings or want to sign up, please call Co-chairs Norma McCallan (471-0035) or Mark Mortier (983-5870).

SIERRA CLUB -- Santa Fe Group -- 440 Cerrillos Road - Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501 - 505/983-2703
**SANTA FE GROUP OUTINGS**

**Sat Sun November**
- 5 Arnold and Carolyn Keskulla (982-9570) Easy/Moderate Hike in the Tesuque Hills. Leave 9 AM.
- 5 Caroline Glick (984-3184) Steep Hike somewhere in Bandelier. Call for reservations and details.
- 6 John Jasper (466-6872) Easy/Moderate Loop Hike (with car shuttle) Aspen Vista—Tesuque—Ski Basin. Slow Pace. Leave 8 AM.

Friday-Saturday-Sun, November 4-5-6
- Norma McCallum (471-0005) Explorers Backpack along the slickrock hogback of Comb Ridge, between Highway 95 and Highway 163 in SE Utah. 20 plus miles. Great panoramas and eroded sandstone the whole way. If weather bad, we will camp and do moderate day hikes in the area. Leave early Thursday afternoon, 11-3. Call for details. Dogs allowed, only if camping.
- 12 Norma Sanders (984-0380) Moderate/Moderate Hike in Ojo Caliente area. Leave 8 AM.
- 13 Julie Montoya King (438-7197) Moderate/Steep Hike to Lake Peak via Winora Trail, weather permitting. Otherwise, moderate hike at a lower elevation. Call for reservations.
- 19 Bob McKee (672-8420) Moderate Loop Hike to Ancho Rapids via Ancho Canyon. Approximately 7 miles RT, some off-trail and bushwhacking. Call for time and meeting place.
- 20 Lionel Soroco (983-6715) Moderate Cross-Country Ski Tour (snow conditions permitting). If snow, Moderate Hike to Sheep Peak (considerable off-trail walking). Leave 8 AM. Call to find out which.
- 26 Joe Whelan (984-0764) Moderate Hike Red Dot/Blue Dot Trail near White Rock. Leave 8 AM.
- 27 Elizabeth Altman (471-8400) Easy Hike in Cañada de Los Alanos. Leave 9 AM.

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**SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO**

**THE LOG**

**Outings**
- Saturday, October 17: Jim Bixler will lead a day hike to Achenbach Canyon in the Organ Mountains. This will be a moderate hike with an uphill grade. We leave the northern parking lot of Pan Am at 9:30 AM. For more information call Marianne at 522-3421.
- Saturday, November 5: Join this day hike to the Lake Valley Mining Area on BLM and Gila NF areas. Call Melba Skinner at 382-5939 (evenings) for more details. BEGINNERS WELCOME!!
- Saturday, October 15: Join us for another backpack excursion to the Cey Walk in the Gila National Forest. We will leave Saturday morning at 8:30. Call Subhakar Banejee for more information at 521-7025.
- Sunday, October 19: This easy hike to the Oliver Lee State Park, Dog Canyon will be moderate to difficult but highly enjoyable. Hikers should bring a lunch on this one. We will leave from the northern parking lot of Pan Am at 8:30 AM. Call Andrew Hands for more information at 523-9039.
- Saturday, November 5: Join this day hike to the Lake Valley Mining Area on BLM and Gila NF areas. Call Melba Skinner at 382-5939 (evenings) for more information.

**Meetings**
- Thursday, September 15: There will be an Executive Committee Meeting. We will meet at the Southwest Environmental Center at 7:00 PM. Call Marianne for details.
- Thursday, September 22: Come see us at 7:30 PM for a general Sierra Club meeting at Science Hall room 107 on the NMSU campus. Watch the newspaper for information on the program that will be given tonight.
- Thursday, October 28: The Executive Committee will meet at 7:00 PM at the S.E.C. on South Solano. All Sierra Club members are invited. (This is a tentative meeting schedule. Stay tuned for any changes.)
- Thursday, October 27: We will have a general Sierra Club meeting at Science Hall room 107 on the NMSU campus. Join us at 7:30 for a program (speaker not yet determined).

**Executive Committee Nominations**
- This year the Ex-Com changed the bylaws so that there will be only nine members with others on standby. It is an even year so only four people can renew their places on the Ex-Com. Members up for renewal include: Tony Chaviello, Andrew Hands, Elizabeth Hernández, Marianne Thaler, Ben Zerby, Kris Paulsen and Jim Winder. We need to form a Nominating Committee with two non-Ex-Com members and one Ex-Com member. Please contact Marianne Thaler if you are interested or willing to help.

**THE LOG needs more articles!**
- The Southern New Mexico Log is calling on you! We need people to write small articles on topics of interest such as local environmental events, issues, and general fact finding information. If you would like to submit an article, please mail it to Kris Paulsen at P.O. Box 4278, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003. All articles should be received by the 11th of each month in order to meet Sierran deadlines.

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**Organ Mountain Alert**

By Marianne Thaler

Soledad Canyon behind Dripping Springs in the Organ Mountains was and is contaminated with World War II unexploded ordnance (UXO). Soledad Canyon, which cuts through the mountains, was used for artillery practice and still has unexploded artillery shells. The area is managed by Fort Bliss, Texas/New Mexico. Although there are some peaks in the mountains within Fort Bliss boundaries, there are no military forces marking the boundaries. All hikers who use Achenbach Canyon Trail should be aware that the trail leads toward Soledad Canyon and should avoid the Canyon. On the east end of Soledad Canyon, Fort Bliss has four water wells that serve White Sands Missile Range Headquarters. A few years ago, the water wells began bringing up brackish water, thus new wells were drilled on the east end of Soledad Canyon.

Join those who care for the Organ Mountains. Write a letter to our Congressional delegation asking that the Organ Mountains be cleaned up and returned to BLM as Wilderness Area (roadless area undisturbed for the enjoyment of all).
Questions to HR Candidates

The following issues and questions were sent to the New Mexico Candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives, District 3, running in the general election. None of the candidates were approved or disapproved for endorsement by the Southern New Mexico Group, Rex Johnson, Green Party Candidate, and Ben Chavez, Democratic Party Candidate responded. Republican incumbent Joe Skeen's office declined the opportunity.

1) Fifteen years ago BL M was mandated to survey the public lands in its management for areas that met the definition of wilderness as set forth in the Wilderness Act. At the time survey objectives were made to the Wilderness Study Areas recognized by BL M, because the survey was not feasible in good light, a formally identified survey was made by the New Mexico Coalition of a group of individuals from within the state and organizations dedicated to hiking, exploring, discovering, observing, and mapping those BL M public lands that met the requirements for wilderness designation. Is anything new under the sun that was not identified as wilderness at that time? Is there a need for another survey today? Are there other issues that were found, except the issue in the 2nd Congressional District. One reason that some individuals on bearing of proposed designations run vehicles into or through the areas was easier than making the required effort for designations.

Question: If elected would you support and introduce a BL M Wilderness Bill for New Mexico based on the work done by the New Mexico BL M Wilderness Coalition? Answer: Yes. I support both a slight enlargement of the BL M Wilderness Coalition's proposal and an ambitious Forest Service Wilderness Bill (800,000+ acres) in the 2nd District (Lincoln, Gila & Catron NPs). I will propose combining Cibola / Catron / Otero National Parks with contiguous Lincoln NP lands with wilderness designation.

2) One of the issues, Recognized by the BL M as a Wilderness Study Area, is the Organ Mountains. The New Mexico BL M Wilderness Coalition Proposed proposed an Organ Mountains Wilderness Area to include lands presently managed by the U.S. Army. J.M. Bliss

Question: Do you support geographic expansion of these military installations in the 2nd Congressional District of New Mexico? Answer: No.

Chavez: "Any proposal to expand these already large facilities must be carefully scrutinized and justified only by the most compelling national security needs. If anything, the present size of these facilities needs to be carefully examined to see if some of this land could not be restored toBL M stewardship thus opening it to multiple public uses."

5) Question: If the State of New Mexico requests financial assistance from the U.S. Government for construction and personnel for a New Mexico Environmental Department Building in Dona Ana County to make inspectors readily available in this fast growing area of New Mexico, would you, if elected, assist the State in its efforts whenever and however possible? Answer: Chavez: "I'm not going to back for buildings in this county.

Chavez: "I would consider it prior importance to the State to fulfill its environmental protection mission. This is one area in which only federal and state cooperation can begin to produce results."

4) The Endangered Species Act (ESA) is due for reauthorization by Congress. In 1973 the Endangered Species Act was passed by Congress. It provides a flexible framework for resolving conflict between development proposals and the species of concern. Between the Acts enactment and 1980 fewer than 3% of projects sanctioned have been blocked. Since the Act has become less effective the Act is vital to the future of the ESA. The ESA has been used to protect monuments on public lands to ensure sustainable development of natural resources for the future. The Sierra Club supports private property rights and the ESA. Recently the ESA has come under attack by some private property rights activists.

Question: If elected to Congress will you support the abolition of the ESA? Why? Would you support the reauthorization of the ESA? Why? Would you try to modify the existing ESA? If so, how would you wish to modify it? Answer: Yes. Yes. Wildlife and wilderness habitats protection means the force of law, and it is clear to me that the State of New Mexico is not up to doing the job. What we have here is a basic value judgment: Are species worth protecting? I believe they are. Opponents of the law do not.

Chavez: "The Endangered Species Act Species serves a purpose and must be carefully balanced with other community interests. The polarization of certain segments of our community on these issues must be assuaged by accommodation. It is time for us to begin to bring people together. The silo mentality of us-against-them is not a strategy for the future."

Chavez: "The Endangered Species Act serves a purpose and must be carefully balanced with other community interests. The polarization of certain segments of our community on these issues must be assuaged by accommodation. It is time for us to begin to bring people together. The silo mentality of us-against-them is not a strategy for the future."

Chavez: "The Endangered Species Act represents a delicate balance between individual rights and a viable public use for federal lands. Market value for fair excessed lands should be based upon actual use (as it has traditionally been) and not on speculative potential uses."

Chavez: In the 2nd Congressional District of New Mexico the bill has been passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate. The final version has been introduced in two forms: 1) A bill to protect the Endangered Wildlife Species Act of 1973, 2) A bill to provide a balance between individual rights and a viable public use for federal lands. Market value for fair excessed lands should be based upon actual use (as it has traditionally been) and not on speculative potential uses.
Open Letter to Environmental Organizations re: Protection of Birds and Bats in Oil and Gas Country

Dear Friends,

We at the New Mexico State Land Office have recently made significant progress in our efforts to prevent the deaths of migratory birds and bats by toxic emissions from oil well processing equipment, so-called heat treating.

I know this issue has been high on most conservation groups' agendas in recent years and I feel obligated to report on recent developments.

When I took office last year, I pledged to hold regular consultations with all of the stakeholders of the State Land Office. I have met several times with representatives of the oil and gas industry to discuss areas of concern.

During the past year, we have urged the industry to voluntarily install protective devices to prevent birds and bats from perching or roosting on oil field equipment. We also became aware that some companies were voluntarily installing the relatively inexpensive conical devices.

Internally, I took two (2) initiatives: 1. I directed my staff to update our own research and other agencies' data and orders on bird and bat mortality; and 2. I ordered a field review of oil and gas facilities on state trust land to determine the extent of voluntary industry compliance.

We published our findings in a report on Los Alamos, 95 percent of the stats we checked had been covered. However, we learned that only 5 percent of the stats in the Permian Basin had protective devices installed.

Our most recent consultation with the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association and the New Mexico Independent Petroleum Association was on August 2, 2002. We reviewed the issue. We discussed the evidence of bird and bat mortality, federal agencies directives and industry standards.

At the meeting, leaders of the industry groups gave us their verbal commitment that they would add bracing to some of the structures they installed equipment to protect birds and bats from collision with the oil field equipment. There were no objections to the comments.

We were gratified by the response, and I sincerely appreciate the willingness of the oil and gas industry to take the necessary step without the needle a formal, adversarial, rate-making process.

[End letter]

Utilities' Future: Yes to Planning, No to Retail Wheeling

by Ken Hughes

Once the most prudent and staid of businesses, utilities in recent years have become as dynamic as the electricity they sell. The public monopoly utilities held for decades as rapidly changing forces, into an era of intense competition and diversity of options. Against this backdrop, a New Mexico legislative panel received testimony in August on the future of utilities in New Mexico. Speaking on behalf of the Sierra Club was Bruce Driver of the Land and Water Fund of the Rockies.

Driver argued against a limited and distanced approach to utility reform, known as "retail wheeling." If enacted into law, retail wheeling would partially realize benefits of competition while destroying hopes of putting in place long-term planning needed to make the industry efficient and environmentally sound. Driver predicts that "retail wheeling" will encounter an enormous amount of uncertainty, litigation and delay if it moves toward a retail marketplace. . . . certain to add to the cost of the meeting the demand for energy services in New Mexico.

Retail wheeling inherently conflicts with long-term planning, especially integrated resource planning, or IRP, now under consideration by the New Mexico Public Utilities Commission. IRP attempts to hold down costs for everyone, instead of the "cherry picking" approach of retail wheeling. IRP evaluates the full range of supply and demand options, then choose a diverse mix of competitive bidding among all. Retail wheeling uses the crude club of the market, focusing on cheap power sales rather than the quality of utility services provided. It certainly would not cover environmental externalities, costs which IRP could certainly acknowledge.

Driver urged the committee to reject retail wheeling and instead to take a number of steps to bring down costs and avoid central power investments: create a competitive wholesale power market; place decisions for acquiring future resources under the IRP framework; craft regulatory rules that provide strong financial incentives for utilities to reduce costs; and solve the "right sizing" problem in wholesale markets.

[End letter]

Freedom to Choose: Air Quality

by Ken Hughes

[The Campaign for Clean Air, by the Washington DC Regional Network for Livable Communities, recently published a report, "More Freedom to Choose: A Plan to Improve Air Quality and Reduce Traffic Congestion." The following article is based on their analysis and findings.]

The health of many who live in the Land of Enchantment is impaired by air pollution. The Rio Grande and all the rivers that feed it are becoming more polluted from both air pollution that dissolves in the water and from sedimentation caused by grazing, mining, and logging as well as urban development. The quality of our lives is diminished by injuries suffered in auto accidents and time wasted in traffic jams. We miss out on many enjoyable activities simply because the "hassle" of our transportation system. And the money isn't there for all planned transportation improvements.

Unfortunately, many of us seem to have no choice but to drive on dangerous or congested roads to do the things that we have to do.

The Sierra Club believes that, by expanding our transportation choices and opportunities, we improve both the quality of our air and the general quality of our lives. We suggest a series of measures to enable our state to grow, while reducing dependence of single-occupant vehicles and expanding the freedom of New Mexicans to choose from transportation alternatives to accomplish their daily activities.

Transportation System Improvements

Before people can reduce their use of single-occupant vehicles, they must have alternatives. The following measures are proposed to improve New Mexico's transportation system:

- Establish urban development boundaries;
- Include land use in public education guidelines;
- Promote day care centers at bus stops;
- Provide bicycle parking at bus stops and in buses;
- Promote mixed-use development;
- Adopt bike and pedestrian-friendly site design standards;
- Reduce property tax rates on buildings in transit-friendly locations;
- Plan and build open spaces/greenbelts.

Education

Consumers need to be informed of the hidden costs of commuting, fueling up and auto travel and urban sprawl. Part of this education will involve eliminating subsidies that inhibit our ability to make effective choices, especially when driving appears to be cheap, why make an effort to locate a home or a business near transit? Reducing reliance on suburbs would allow our eyes to choose which we don't even think about today.

Impose additional taxes and fees at this stage, after having done everything possible to facilitate automobile usage for forty years, will strike some people as unfair. However, as transporters and consumers, we propose these automobile fees for two reasons, because they even out the subsidies for single occu-

[End letter]

Outings Highlights; Ski Swaps

by John Turnbull

There are some particularly interesting outings going on with the various groups outings lately, and they all are, unless noted, open to any member, regardless of group affiliation.

Up-corners backpackers wondering what the Gila area is all about, check the El Paso Group listings. A loop trip on 2 days 5 Sep. through Natchez Park. The leaves are changing in October in the Gila. Backpacks on the weekend 18 Oct. 19 Nov. 16 Dec. (Middle Fork, Gila River), a service on 11 thru 13 Oct.

Northwesterners wondering what's special about Utah's high desert, check Albuquerqu Group's Utah trip on 1, 2 Oct. and Santa Fe Group's Five-day Odyssey to Slat Lake's slickrock country from 6 Oct 10 Oct.

Tail timber enthusiasts and skiers consider the Chama Group's weekender and list on 1, 2 Oct. to scout out a ski trail in the scenic Valle Vidal area near Costilla. The Rio Grande Group is also hosting the Orange County, California Sierra Clubs for a ski week here next March. Watch for it.

Interested in petrified wood (immense ones!), dinosaurs, 1000-year-old-talls, tars, and fascinating geology? Check out the Santa Fe/Albuquerque Group's car camp and hike to the De-Na-Zin Wilderness (BLM) in the Santa Juan Basin on 10,11 Sep.

[End letter]